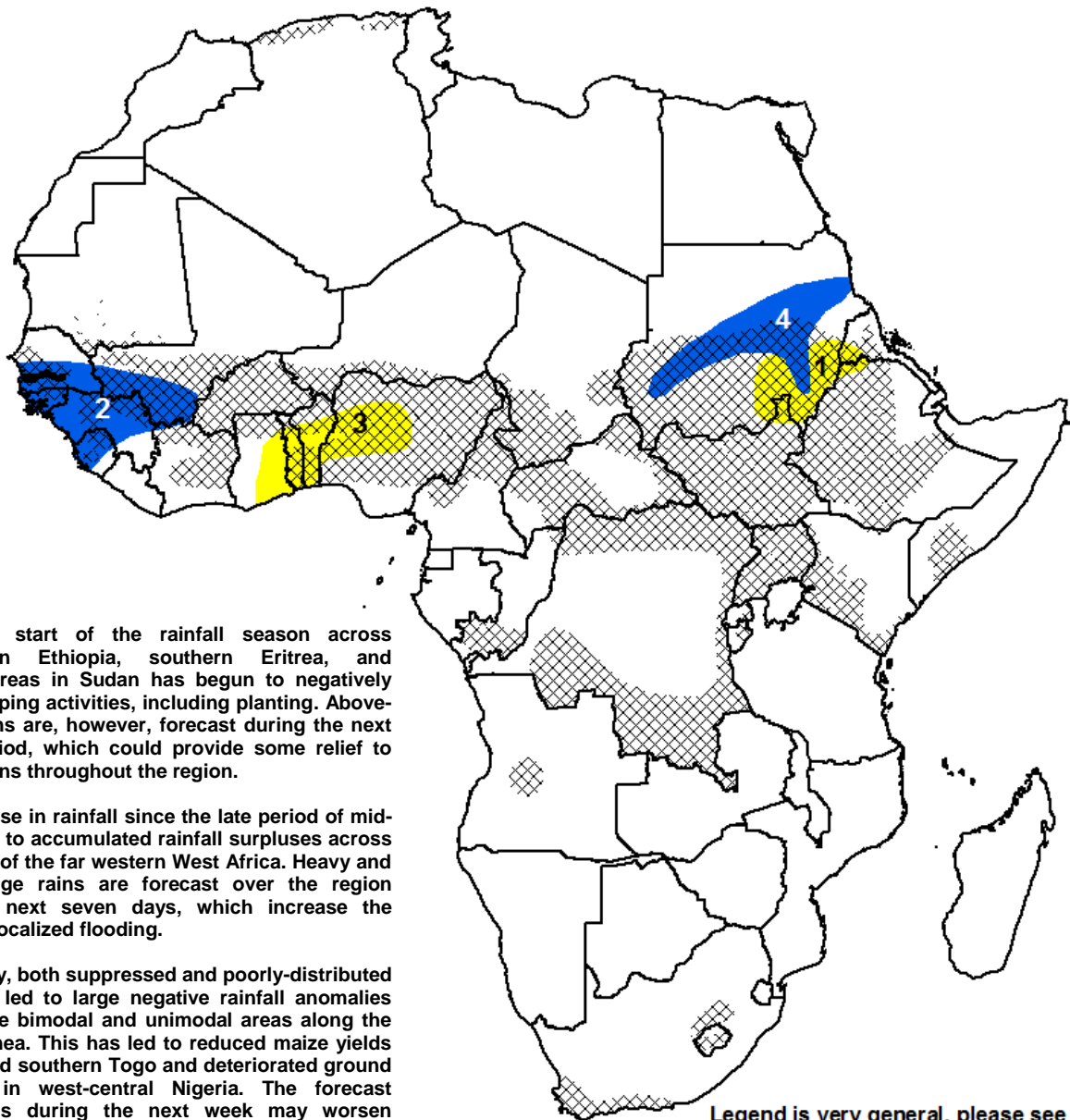


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 8 – August 14, 2013

- Heavy and above-average rains fell in Sudan, causing flooding and infrastructure damages.



1) A poor start of the rainfall season across northwestern Ethiopia, southern Eritrea, and bordering areas in Sudan has begun to negatively impact cropping activities, including planting. Above-average rains are, however, forecast during the next outlook period, which could provide some relief to dry conditions throughout the region.

2) An increase in rainfall since the late period of mid-July has led to accumulated rainfall surpluses across many areas of the far western West Africa. Heavy and above-average rains are forecast over the region during the next seven days, which increase the chance for localized flooding.

3) Since July, both suppressed and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to large negative rainfall anomalies across some bimodal and unimodal areas along the Gulf of Guinea. This has led to reduced maize yields in Ghana and southern Togo and deteriorated ground conditions in west-central Nigeria. The forecast limited rains during the next week may worsen ground conditions.

4) Heavy and above-average rains since the beginning of August have caused fatalities, infrastructure damages, and displaced people in several states of Sudan, including the Khartoum, River Nile, Blue Nile, North Darfur, and Red Sea. Above-average rains are forecast to continue during the next outlook period, increasing the risks for inundation and potential waterborne disease outbreaks.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

<xxxxxxxx>	August Cropped Areas
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Dark Red	Abnormal Heat

Favorable rainfall distribution was observed in the Sahel.

A favorable distribution of rainfall was observed across West Africa as moderate to heavy rains were observed across a wide portion of the Sahelian-Guinean region during the past week. Moderate to heavy rains fell over Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, southern Mauritania, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Mali, and parts of Burkina Faso, western Niger, and northeastern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). However, little to no rainfall amounts was registered along the Gulf of Guinea, including eastern Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria. The early departure and poor distribution of the seasonal rainfall have resulted in large negative rainfall anomalies across the region.

An analysis of the soil water index anomaly during late July indicates below-average soil water, with moisture deficits exceeding 75 mm throughout Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and northwestern Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The depletion of ground moisture has already negatively affected crop conditions along coastal Ghana and Togo. Farther east, the delayed increase in seasonal rain during July has also increased moisture deficits over many provinces of Chad, including the Bahr El Gazel, Batha, Ouaddai, and Wadi Fira. An increase in rainfall is needed to mitigate dryness over these dry portions of West Africa.

During the next outlook period, the development of easterly waves is expected to produce heavy and above-average rains throughout southern Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Mali, and western Burkina Faso. In Mali, the forecast continuation of heavy rains could negatively impact seedlings across the lowlands. Farther east, downpours (> 75 mm) are forecast in eastern Chad, which are expected to help to relieve dryness over the country. In contrast, suppressed rains are forecast along the Gulf of Guinea and are likely to exacerbate dry conditions across the region.

Heavy rains were observed across Sudan.

A steady northward movement of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was observed over eastern Africa during July. This progression has brought enhanced rains farther North. During the past week, while seasonal rainfall continued in western Ethiopia, moderate to heavy rains were observed over Eritrea and northeastern Sudan (**Figure 3**). Moderate to heavy rains were also registered over Darfur and parts of central Sudan. Reports have indicated flooding and destroyed houses across many areas of Sudan, including the Khartoum, River Nile, Blue Nile, and Red Sea States due to heavy rains since the start of August. However, accumulated rainfall deficits have persisted in the east due to the delayed onset of the rainy season. For next week, heavy rains are expected to continue over eastern Africa, with copious (> 75mm) rains over Darfur and locally heavy rains over central and eastern Sudan. With the already-saturated grounds over many areas of Sudan, additional rains are likely to worsen conditions and raise concerns for waterborne disease outbreaks such as Malaria and diarrhea.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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